

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 /055 W
-----048092 251148Z /23

P 251131Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8370
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 11532

DEPT FOR S/PRS AND PA, PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USICA FOR PGM/PP

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L.)
SUBJECT: ATHERTON REMARKS IN CAIRO APRIL 24
10 FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S REMARKS TO
THE PRESS FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER KAMEL ON APRIL 24, 1978.
BEGIN TEXT. I WANT TO THANK THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR
GIVING ME SO MUCH OF HIS TIME WHILE I HAVE BEEN HERE
ON THIS VISIT TO EGYPT. AND, OF COURSE, I WOULD LIKE
TO REITERATE MY THANKS AND DEEP APPRECIATION TO
PRESIDENT SADAT FOR THE VERY GOOD MEETING THAT WE HAD
YESTERDAY. I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THERE IS ANYTHING
I CAN ADD TO WHAT I SAID AFTER MY MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT SADAT YESTERDAY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND
I TODAY HAVE REVIEWED THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS
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THAT WE HAVE HAD OVER THE PAST THREE DAYS. THESE
HAVE BEEN, INDEED, VERY SERIOUS AND VERY DETAILED
DISCUSSIONS. I THINK THAT THEY HAVE CERTAINLY HELPED
MY GOVERNMENT HAVE AN EVEN CLEARER AND DEEPER UNDER-
STANDING OF THE POSITION OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT
AS WE LOOK FOR WAYS TO HELP FIND NEW MOVES IN THE
PEACE PROCESS. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, I AM CONFIDENT

THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU HEARD THE STATEMENT PUBLISHED TODAY BY JAMES RESTON ABOUT THE AMERICANS STUDYING CERTAIN ISRAELI PROPOSALS. HAS THIS GOT ANY CONNECTION (INAUDIBLE)?

ATHERTON: I HAVE NOT SEEN THE REPORT, AND I REALLY DO NOT WANT TO COMMENT ON A REPORT I HAVE NOT READ. I HAVE NOT SEEN IT.

QUESTION: BUT ARE THERE ISRAELI PROPOSALS? RECENT ONES.

ATHERTON: I HAVE BEEN IN EGYPT AND ...

QUESTION: BEFORE YOU CAME?

ATHERTON: WE HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVING NEW PROPOSALS AT THIS STAGE. THERE HAS BEEN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION, I THINK YOU HAVE SEEN IT IN THE PRESS, SOME OF THE DISCUSSION IN ISRAEL AND SOME OF THE IDEAS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING, BUT I THINK IT WILL BE PREMATURE TO SPEAK ABOUT NEW ISRAELI PROPOSALS AT THIS POINT. WE ARE GOING TO BE MEETING LATER THIS WEEK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN.
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WE WILL SEE THEN, I SUPPOSE, WHAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ARE. THIS WILL ALSO BE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION THAT WE ARE NOW CARRYING ON.

QUESTION: DID YOU GET ANY EGYPTIAN PAPERS ... IDEAS?

ATHERTON: WELL, AS I SAID YESTERDAY WE ALWAYS HAVE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON THESE VISITS AND THEY ARE VERY USEFUL. BUT IN TERMS OF PAPERS AND PROPOSALS: NO.

QUESTION: DID YOU GET A NEW FORMULA ON THE DECLARATION?

ATHERTON: I THINK I CANNOT ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT I HAVE SAID.

QUESTION: BUT DID YOU RECEIVE A MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER?

ATHERTON: YES, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ME TO CARRY A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM HIM TO PRESIDENT CARTER, AND I WILL BE DOING SO.

QUESTION: YESTERDAY YOU SAID THAT YOU ARE EXPECTING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL, IF NEEDED, CAN GO TO WASHINGTON?

ATHERTON: YES, AND WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS AND AGREED THAT THIS IS VERY USEFUL SUGGESTION. WE WILL SEE WHAT MIGHT BE THE MOST USEFUL WAY TO PROCEED, BUT THERE IS CERTAINLY NO SPECIFIC PLAN AT THIS TIME, WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE SUGGESTION AND IT IS ONE THAT WE WILL CERTAINLY TAKE ADVANTAGE

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IF IT APPEARS, TO EITHER THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT
OR TO US, THAT THIS WILL BE A USEFUL WAY OF CON-
TINUING THE DIALOGUE.

QUESTION: DO YOU EXPECT TO COME BACK?

ATHERTON: I ALWAYS EXPECT TO COME BACK, BUT I HAVE
NOT EVEN LEFT YET. I HAVE NOT GOT ANY SPECIFIC
PLANS AT THIS POINT.

QUESTION: PRESIDENT CARTER, IS HE GOING TO GIVE A
SPEECH ON MIDDLE EAST SOON?

ATHERTON: I DO NOT BELIEVE ANY DECISION ON THAT
HAS BEEN MADE.

QUESTION: WHAT TIME ARE YOU LEAVING, SIR?
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ATHERTON: TOO EARLY.
END TEXT. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO11532
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780176-0259
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780421/aaaaarld.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 701549a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2863469
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATHERTON REMARKS IN CAIRO APRIL 24 10 FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN FORE
TAGS: OVIP, US, EG, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/701549a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014